

CHAPTER 13

SELF-HELP

13-1. Introduction.

Before identifying self-help projects in a proposed plan area design, the designer will understand the child safety considerations that apply to self-help projects.

13-2. Play Equipment.

Manufactured play equipment should be purchased rather than site-built. It should be installed by professionals who are knowledgeable about safety, play area construction, and installation.

a. Site-Built Equipment. Site-built play equipment is not recommended because all play equipment must be designed to meet child safety standards (CPSC, ASTM F 1487). This is difficult to accomplish with a nonmanufactured product. Because the cost of purchasing materials for construction is nearly equal to the cost of purchasing manufactured play equipment, there is no cost savings in building play equipment. Additionally, the installation will assume liability for any accidents that occur on site-built play equipment.

b. Installation of Manufactured Play Equipment.

Troop sponsors with construction backgrounds may install manufactured play equipment. If the equipment is to be installed through self-help, a manufacturer's representative who is experienced in the installation, adjustment, and operation of the playground equipment should be onsite during installation. The safety manager should participate in periodic and final inspections to ensure that the play equipment complies with child safety requirements presented in this manual.

13-3. Appropriate Volunteer Projects.

The use of community volunteers is recommended for simple self-help projects, such as building benches or planters, or spreading loose-fill safety surfacing. Staff trained in play area construction and child safety will supervise all volunteer construction. The safety manager should ensure that the project complies with child safety requirements presented in this manual.